

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting June 19, 2002

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2002, scheduled for 8:30 a.m., in the City of Grass Valley Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California.

Members Present: Kerry Arnett, Ann Guerra, *Elizabeth Martin, Linda Stevens, Josh Susman

Members Absent: Chet Krage, Peter Van Zant

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Vice-Chairman Susman convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:32 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: May 2002.

No comments.

2. Correspondence:

K. California Department of Parks and Recreation - The High Sierra Crossings Museum and Nature Preserve Project has been granted \$3.1 million in TEA funds.

Executive Director Landon stated that the state had two project lists, A and B. The museum is number two or three on the A list and will receive \$3.1 million. The remainder of \$1.7 million is on the B list which will be funded as other projects have either monies left over or there is new money received from the federal government.

E. Supervisor Bruce Conklin - Letter to the CTC supporting the Tahoe National Forest request for TEA funds to improve existing trail facilities.

Executive Director Landon stated that this item is 12th on the TEA projects "B" list. According to the Caltrans supervisor monitoring the TEA program, this project has an excellent opportunity of being funded when the federal reauthorization occurs next year.

3. Executive Director's Report:

Nevada County Transit Needs Assessment

Executive Director Landon stated that since the May NCTC meeting, the consultant updating the transit development plans has determined there is a need to have significant changes made in transit services in order to take care of "on-time"

concerns and to maintain financial sustainability into the future. Therefore, NCTC staff has made revisions to the Transit Needs Assessment, particularly with regard to Sunday service. This information will be presented to the SSTAC for their review and comment prior to bringing it back to the Commission. Mr. Landon stated that due to the concerns expressed by Nevada County Department of Transportation staff concerning Sunday service, NCTC staff is working with them and the consultant to ensure that any recommendations in the needs assessment will be financially sustainable over the long term.

4. Caltrans District 3 Report, Ron Sykes:

Executive Director Landon stated he had forwarded an email to the Commissioners from Chet Krage regarding information about turnouts in Montana and on SR 20 to I-80.

*Commissioner Martin arrived at 8:40 a.m.

Ron Sykes, from Caltrans District 3 operations, provided the following information regarding turnouts on SR 20 from Nevada City to I-80.

Mr. Sykes stated there was one passing lane, three turnouts marked by seven signs eastbound, and two turnouts marked by five signs westbound on SR 20. He stated that for that stretch of road and for those conditions, there were probably not enough passing lanes or turnouts. Mr. Sykes was present as a result of a previous Commission discussion requesting more turnouts on the uphill direction and signage that would state, "If you have more than five vehicles behind you, you must pull over to allow passing". Mr. Sykes said that Caltrans had used these type of signs and they were not effective for a variety of reasons, but they had not ruled out the possibility of using them again. He stated he would drive that portion of SR 20 to ensure the road is adequately marked and to locate possible areas for additional turnouts and/or passing lanes.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding California law when a turnout is to be used, wording used on signs, and striping of passing lanes.

Mr. Sykes concluded that if there were another passing lane in each direction with a few more turnouts, the traffic situation would be improved. He stated he would come back to the Commission with a recommendation.

Caltrans District 3 liaison, Ann Marie Robinson, reported that Tom Brannon was selected as Project Manager for Nevada County and will be attending once-a-month meetings with Dan Landon and possibly Peter Van Zant as a means of continuing communication between Caltrans and Nevada County.

With regard to the widening of SR 49 from Placer County to the Wolf/Combie intersection, Executive Director Landon reported that the Army Corp of Engineers permit had been received by Caltrans and the widening project would be going to bid within the week. He also noted that Caltrans District 3 staff have stated there are mast arms available that could provide a more aesthetic look for the signal lights at the Combie/Wolf Road intersection. The County's design guidelines have been forwarded to Caltrans for their review.

CONSENT ITEMS:

5. NCTC Minutes: May 15, 2002. *Approved.*

6. Revised 2002/03 FY Findings of Apportionment: *Resolution 02-19 adopted.*
7. Nevada County Non-motorized Transportation Master Plan: *Resolution 02-20 adopted.*

Motion made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the consent items and seconded by Commissioner Arnett. Commissioner Martin abstained from the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

8. Allocation Request from Nevada County: Michael Hill-Weld, Director of Transportation and Sanitation explained how the requested \$103,000 LTF for FY 2001/02 would be used.

Commissioner Martin asked that a resolution of gratitude for the past director of transit services be agendized for the next meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Arnett to adopt Resolution 02-21 and seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Allocation Request from Nevada County: Michael Hill-Weld stated that this allocation request for LTF for 02/03 FY would be presented to the Board of Supervisors the next week, but was asking for the Commission's approval assuming the board approves it. The allocation request is based on the budgets that were reviewed and approved by the Operational Policy Committee and have been approved in concept by the Board of Supervisors. He stated they were maintaining the current level of service with this allocation request, but may modify it based on the results of the Transit Development Plan. Mr. Hill-Weld also stated he would be returning to the Commission for an allocation request for funds for future vehicle replacement and refurbishment.

A brief Commission discussion ensued regarding maintenance of Compressed Natural Gas buses and future bus purchases.

Motion made by Commissioner Stevens to adopt Resolution 02-22 and seconded by Commissioner Guerra. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Amendment III to the 2001/02 FY Overall Work Program: Executive Director Landon reviewed the two items that necessitated an amendment to the budget.

Commissioner Martin's expressed concerns with some of the information presented in the Twin Cities Church Scope of Work to which Executive Director Landon responded that those types of issues could be addressed before the Nevada County Planning Commission and would be presented to the City of Grass Valley. Executive Director Landon said he would include Commissioner's Martin request that the Adams Avenue intersection with Rough and Ready Highway be added to the scope of work.

Motion made by Commissioner Stevens to adopt Resolution 02-23 and seconded by Commissioner Arnett. Motion passed unanimously.

11. 2002/03 Overall Work Program: Executive Director Landon requested adoption of Resolution 02-24 approving the 2002/03 OWP.

Commissioner Martin stated that she would like to see the agenda and minutes placed on the NCTC website and questioned if that activity would need to be added into the budget. Executive Director Landon responded it could be accomplished without a change to the budget.

Motion made by Commissioner Stevens to adopt Resolution 02-24 and authorize submittal of the OWP to Caltrans and seconded by Commissioner by Commissioner Guerra. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Health Insurance Cost Increase: Executive Director Landon stated he received notification there has been an increase in the employees medical and dental insurance. Approving Resolution 02-25 would provide an increase in the employee benefit allowance to \$483 per month thereby maintaining provision of health benefits to each employee at the current level.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding health benefits provided by the NCTC.

Motion made by Commissioner Stevens to adopt Resolution 02-25 and seconded by Commissioner Arnett. Motion was passed unanimously.

13. Amendment VI to Executive Director's Employment Agreement: Executive Director Landon requested approval of Resolution 02-26 .

Motion made by Commissioner Stevens to adopt Resolution 02-26 and seconded by Commissioner Guerra. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Susman suggested that future agendas should state that the Operational Policy Committee meeting would follow directly after the NCTC.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Harriet McKay stated it would be helpful if the correspondence items in the agenda were organized by subject.

Paul Mucci asked if it would be possible to post the agenda through the newspaper or by some other means and if the Commission could consider having evening meetings twice a year, possibly between 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to promote more public participation. He also asked that the "Public Comment" portion of NCTC meetings be at the beginning of the Commission meeting when people were more attentive than they were at the end. Mr. Mucci expressed his concerns with implementation of the ITS and asked that his June 8th article in *The Union* be placed in the record. Mr. Landon responded it had been placed in the correspondence section of the agenda packet.

Richard Thomas, a resident of Nevada City expressed his concerns with the widening of SR 49 and its impacts on the community.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No comments.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, July 17, 2002 at 8:30 a.m., at the City of Nevada City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Vice-Chairman Susman adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Peter Van Zant, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission